

# CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

June 27, 2001

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ARTIST WANTED

The Office of Program Support is looking for a volunteer artist to design and carry out a graphic design for the renovated Distance Communication and Learning Center. If you are interested, call Julie Benedict at 564-5705.

### DEFERRED COMP SEMINAR

A representative of the Kentucky Deferred Compensation Authority will be in the Health Services Building Auditorium on July 9 for seminars at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Jolene VanHorne will discuss: enrollment and deferral services; amendment services to increase/decrease deferrals; making changes by phone, in writing or by computer; answer questions about the program; updates on recent plan enhancements and legislated changes; and conduct individual employee sessions.



### TIP OF THE WEEK

The exact cause of hypertension, or high blood pressure, is often unknown. What is known is that years of uncontrolled hypertension may lead to stroke, heart disease, and kidney disease. Ways to control or prevent hypertension include: weight loss, exercise, not smoking, eating a low fat diet, moderate use of salt, avoiding alcohol, and reducing stress.

## Public Health Practice Reference Being Sent To Local Departments

The Public Health Practice Reference, a set of clinical and service guidelines for local health departments, has been developed by the Department for Public Health.

These guidelines are essentially "our guarantee" to the citizens of what will be provided at local health departments, according to Dr. Rice Leach, commissioner of the Department for Public Health.

For example, the reference includes a list of what a local health department would do for a diabetes

screening visit – such things as checking for relatives with diabetes, the patient's blood pressure and weight. The reference is a list of

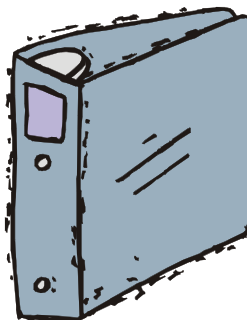
basic guidelines for providing quality care.

"It's the basis of our accountability," said Sarah Wilding, chief nurse for the department. Wilding, Deputy Commissioner Sharon Stumbo and staff from the department as well as local health departments

developed the reference.

The reference is being sent out to local departments on computer

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## HHS Announces New Initiatives, Name Changes

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson recently announced a department-wide initiative to reduce regulatory burdens in health care and respond faster to the concerns of health care providers, state and local governments and individual Americans who are affected by HHS rules.

Secretary Thompson announced that a cross-Departmental Task Force on Regulatory Reform is being created immediately, headed by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, to steer an ongoing review of HHS regulations and to oversee changes in regulations. The regulatory reform effort will also include expanded

review of Medicare and Medicaid regulations as part of a reform of the HHS' Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

Acting on this pledge to reform HCFA, Secretary Thompson also announced that the agency has been renamed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and will be reorganized into three divisions to promote greater responsiveness to states, providers and patients.

Press releases on both announcements are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2001.html>.

(From the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Primary Care Network News)



### Public Health Practice Reference Completed

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discs, making it easy to find topics. There is also a process for making changes and updates in the reference so that changes are consistent.

Leach, in a recent meeting with department staff, urged employees to help local departments become familiar with the reference.

For more information, contact Wilding at 502-564-3970 or email her at

[Sarah.wilding@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Sarah.wilding@mail.state.ky.us)



### Retirement Seminars Scheduled Across State

The Kentucky Retirement Systems will be holding retirement seminars over the next few months at several locations. They include:

July 16-20: Kentucky Dam Village State Park.

Aug. 13-17: Lake Cumberland State Park.

Sept. 10-14: Pine Mountain State Park.

Oct. 8-12: Greenbo State Park.

Nov. 5-9: Natural Bridge State Park.

Dec. 3-7: Rough River State Park.



The CHS Checkup is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. View newsletters at the CHS website at: <http://chs.state.ky.us/> Printed with state funds.



## Fire Marshal Issues Warnings On Kentucky Fireworks Laws

It happens every year. The weather warms up. We creep toward the middle of June and suddenly our roadsides and shopping center parking lots are sprinkled with tents of all shapes and sizes...all selling fireworks.

But before you visit one of these venues, Dave Manley, Kentucky State Fire Marshal, reminds you that all fireworks are not authorized for sale or use by the public in Kentucky.

Any person violating the fireworks laws or who knowingly induces another to violate the law can be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned in the county jail for up to 30 days, or both.

To comply with the law, read the label on the item to determine if it is legal to sell or possess in Kentucky.

Any firework that has wings, fins or other mechanisms designed to help the device fly is illegal. And if the firework carries a warning that includes these words — explosive, emits flaming pellets, flaming balls, firecracker, report or rocket — that device is illegal as well.

Each tent must have a permit, posted in plain view, issued by the

State Fire Marshal's Office. However, some vendors assume that the permit authorizes them to display and offer for sale illegal items such as fire crackers, bottle rockets or Roman candles.

"Since 1996, 221 Kentuckians have been injured by misuse of fireworks. The tragic part of that figure is that

most of the injured were not the actual fireworks shooter as inebriated adults and unsupervised children account for most of the injuries," Manley said. "The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend one of the many public displays offered throughout Kentucky communities."

Manley encourages Kentuckians to use caution and common sense when purchasing fireworks, adding that even innocent looking sparklers can cause injuries to young children.

"The Fourth of July is a day of celebration and pride for Americans. Please don't ruin the fun for you, your family and guests by shooting off illegal fireworks," Manley said.



### Henry King Reception

A retirement reception for Henry King of the Office of Inspector General-Audits Division, will be July 17 from 2-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. King has worked 22 years for the state.

